

Biosolids Facility Vocabulary

Anaerobic – Anaerobic digestion does not require oxygen. The microorganisms do not need oxygen to survive.

Class A Biosolids – Metro Water Services produces Class A Biosolids. Regulations set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for Class A Biosolids require the pellets to be heated to at least 180 degrees Fahrenheit for at least 30 minutes. This heat treatment sterilizes the pellets, eliminating pathogens. This type of fertilizer can be used without any restrictions on farms and gardens, including on food plants.

Class B Biosolids – The regulations for Class B Biosolids are set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Class B Biosolids are not heat treated and have some pathogens and odor. There are restrictions to how Class B Biosolids can be used.

Digestion – The solids are digested, similar to how your stomach works, to reduce pathogens and odors.

Pathogens – Pathogens are harmful organisms that can make people and animals sick.

Thermal Drying – The solids are dried to destroy any remaining pathogens and remove moisture. This is similar to pasteurization. We power our dryers by reusing the methane gas produced during the digestion process.